

# Ferndown First School

# WEEKLY UPDATE

17 April 2026



## Attendance

Whole School Attendance: **95%**

National: **94.8%**

Whole School target: **97%**

## Message from the Headteacher

It has been good to be back at school this week. The children have returned back to school full of energy and have settled well to their learning.

Thank you to the many parents that joined us for parents' evening this week. If you were not able to attend, your child's teacher will contact you to make an appointment at another time.

Many of you will have noticed that the large brick wall facing the playground has been painted white. Mr Onslow, Mr Badminton, Mr Wood and myself painted this during the Easter holiday in readiness for local artist, Kizzie, to create a colourful mural that will be painted as a memorial for Betsy. It will be fascinating to see Kizzie at work and to see how the mural takes shape over the next three weeks. Many thanks to Mr Badminton and Mr Wood for giving their time to help during the holidays.

### RESTRICTIVE INTERVENTIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF FORCE

New DfE guidance, taking full effect from **1 April 2026**, clarifies the use of reasonable force and restrictive interventions in schools to ensure child safety. Key updates mandate that schools must **record and report** all significant restrictive practices (such as physical restraint or seclusion) to parents. Interventions should only be used as a last resort to prevent harm and keep all children safe.

There is a new Trust policy called 'Restrictive intervention, including the use of force' that can be found on our website.

I would encourage parents to read this.

Next week is a very busy week in school. I will be joining Year 4 on their residential to Avon Tyrrell. We have everything crossed for good weather!

## Key Dates & Information

More detailed information about the events below will be communicated through ParentMail and/or Arbor

### EYFS

PE Day: **Wednesday**.

- 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June - Trip to Blashford Lakes

### Year 1

PE Days: **Thursday and Friday**.

Library day: **Wednesday**

- 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June - Phonics Screening Check

### Year 2

PE Days: **Tuesday and Wednesday**

Library day: **Thursday**

- 13<sup>th</sup> May - Trip to Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre

### Year 3

PE Days: **Monday and Tuesday**

Library day: **Friday**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Avon Tyrrell 2027 Parents' Initial meeting - online, 6pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Fiver Challenge 2.15pm, School Hall

### Year 4

PE Days: **Thursday and Friday**

Library day: **Wren - Monday, Lark - Tuesday**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April - Avon Tyrrell Residential
- 11<sup>th</sup> May - Bikeability sessions begin
- 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June - Multiplication Check
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June - Swimming: Ferndown Leisure Centre
- 26<sup>th</sup> June - Transfer Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> May - Avon Tyrrell Parents' Assembly 9am Hall
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Swimming at Ferndown Leisure Centre
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Fiver Challenge 2.15pm, School Hall
- 17<sup>th</sup> July - Leavers' Assembly 10am, School Hall

### Whole School Dates

- 18<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Morning
- 29<sup>th</sup> June - INSET Day
- 9<sup>th</sup> July - Sports Morning (Reserve Date)
- 15<sup>th</sup> July - Summer Service at St Mary's
- 17<sup>th</sup> July - Last Day of Term finish at 1.15pm or 3.05pm

## Important Information

### Year 1 Fun with Phonics!

Please join us with your child for our Spring Term Fun with Phonics sessions every Tuesday after school from 3:10 – 3:40 pm.

Our Year 1 teachers will be there each week to model useful strategies, offer guidance, and answer any questions you may have about phonics or the screening check.

And of course, there will be squash and biscuits for the children to enjoy!  
We hope to see you there!

### School Crossing Patrol

You may have seen on Facebook recently that our lovely school crossing patrol, Mrs Middleton, is being supported by the Ferndown Town Councillors in a petition to keep her in post from the Autumn term.

Whilst we are pleased with the Zebra Crossings that have been installed on Church Road, we agree that having Mrs Middleton available to help our children cross safely is invaluable.

You can sign the petition using the QR code.



### Year 4 – First Day at School Photos Wanted!

We know it is hard to believe, but your children will be leaving first school at the end of term!

Please send us a digital photograph of your child's first day at school (even if it was a different school!) so we can prepare for our Leavers' celebrations.

Please send images to [office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@fernfirst.dorset.sch.uk). If possible, rename the JPEG with your child's initials. If you don't have a first day at school photo, don't worry. Any photo of your child when they were 4 turning 5 would be perfect!  
Thank you for your help.

### Resources for Arts Week

We are in need of any coloured wool, yarn or string for our upcoming Arts Week. If anyone has any spare that they could kindly donate, please drop into the school office.

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## Clubs & Activities

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>LUNCHTIMES</b>				
		Book Club Yrs 3 & 4 12.45 Library Mrs Errington		Chess Club Yrs 2-4 12.45pm Hall Mr Watts
				Choir Yrs 3 & 4 12.45pm Music Room Mrs Charters
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b>				
<b>Ferndown First School After School Club. All Years. 3.05pm – 6pm</b>				
Live4Tennis Yrs 3 – 4 3.05pm – 4.05pm (External)	Karate Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm – 4.15pm (External)	Mr Higgins Football Yrs 2, 3 & 4 3.05pm – 4.15pm (External)	Art Bee Yrs 1 – 4 3.05pm – 4.05pm (External)	
			High 5 Gymnastics Years 1 – 4 Yrs 1 & 2: 3.15 – 4.15pm Yrs 3 & 4: 4.15 – 5.15pm (External)	

## Community Notice Board

**May Half Term 2026**





**Arts and sports events for Dorset children aged 5-17 who need additional support**






**Forest Fun • Hairy Cow Cuddles & Craft  
Sensory Sessions • Hands-on History**




View full programme  
or email [leisure@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)  
[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz)




@DORSETMHST



Dorset  
Mental  
Health  
Support  
Teams in  
Schools



Dorset HealthCare  
University  
NHS Foundation Trust


### PARENT/CARER WEBINAR


## HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE BIG EMOTIONS

Is your child finding big feelings hard to manage? Are they becoming upset, angry or worried, or finding it hard to calm down after things go wrong? The MHST might be able to help. This pre-recorded webinar is suitable for parent/carers of children up to 12.

In this 1 hour session we will:

- Explore emotional regulation
- Understand triggers and early warning signs
- Share ways to support your child to calm and cope
- Offer practical strategies you can try at home

WATCH NOW 



[to watch now: https://forms.office.com/e/TxhWjE7tza](https://forms.office.com/e/TxhWjE7tza)

Part of the Southern Education Trust

# Ferndown First School – Weekly Update – 17 April 2026

## Term Dates

### Spring Term 2026

JANUARY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### Summer Term 2026

MAY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### Bank and Public Holidays 2025-2026

25 December 2025	Christmas Day
26 December 2025	Boxing Day

1 January 2026	New Year's Day
3 April 2026	Good Friday

6 April 2026	Easter Monday
4 May 2026	May Day Holiday

25 May 2026	Spring Bank Holiday
31 August 2026	August Bank Holiday

### Key

School Holidays
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Bank Holidays
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Staff Training Days (Not yet determined)
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Last Day of Term
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## Term Dates 2026-2027



### Autumn Term 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### Spring Term 2027

JANUARY 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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### Summer Term 2027

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Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST 2027						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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School Holidays
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Bank Holidays
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Staff Training Days
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Last Day of Term
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